

Health Alert

February 10, 2003

HA#39 – Public Health
and Water Supplies
2/10/03

**FROM: RICHARD C. DUNN
DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT: Public Health and Water Supplies

The following is an official Center for Disease Control/Environmental Protection Agency (CDC/EPA) Joint Health Advisory issued in response to the Department of Homeland Security upgrade of the Homeland Security Advisory System from yellow level (elevated risk of terrorist attack) to orange level (high risk of terrorist attack).

While there are no data to indicate that water has been specifically targeted, our nation's water infrastructure remains at risk to terrorist attacks, or acts intended to substantially disrupt the ability of a water system to provide a reliable supply of water. Therefore, public health agencies and water utilities are encouraged to continue to work together, keep each other informed of any unusual activity and confirm the proper operation of notification channels in emergency response plans.

Public health agencies should immediately notify local water utilities and the state's drinking water administrator in the event of an unusual number of cases of gastrointestinal illness or other indications of illness that may suggest water contamination by a biological, chemical or radiological agent.

Water utilities should immediately notify the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), 24/7 at 1-800-392-0272 and the state's drinking water administrator at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), 24/7 at 1-573-634-2436 in the event of specific threats received at a water facility, customer complaints in water quality or if circumstances lead the utility to believe that the water has been or will be contaminated with a biological, chemical or radiological agent.

How to contact us:

Office of the Director
912 Wildwood
P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Telephone: (800) 392-0272
Fax: (573) 751-6041
Website: www.dhss.state.mo.us

DHSS DISTRIBUTION LIST: Missouri local public health agencies, state agencies and professional association groups

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